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Alabama and the Other Forty-nine: Some Comparisons

by Dana Stone

In recognition of Alabama's highly competitive spirit, it seems appropriate to focus attention on the state's socioeconomic and demographic position relative to other states. In other words, How does Alabama rank among the fifty states with respect to such indicators as standard demographics (population, age, race); education; employment; income; and so forth?

First, out of a total U.S. population of 226,545,805 for 1980, Alabama had a population of 3,893,888, 22nd among the fifty states. With respect to land area in 1980, Alabama was 28th among the states. Alabama is composed of 50,767 square miles out of a total of 3,539,295 square miles for the U.S. The state ranks 26th in terms of population per square mile for 1980, 76.7 persons per square mile compared to 64.0 persons per square mile for the U.S.

The median age of Alabamians is 29.2 years, compared to the U.S. median age of 30.0 years. This places the state 30th among the fifty states. Alabama ranks 23rd among the states in elderly population--those age 65 and over--equalling 11.3 percent of the state's total population in 1980.

The nonwhite population in Alabama is large, placing the state 6th among the states. Alabama's nonwhite population in 1980 was 26.2 percent of the total population, compared to the nation's 16.9 percent. The nonwhite population is composed primarily of black persons, placing the state 5th among the fifty states. Alabama's black population equaled 25.6 percent of the total population in 1980, compared to 11.7 percent for the U.S.

Alabama stands 29th with respect to metropolitan population. Sixty-two percent of the state's population in 1980 resided in metropolitan areas, compared to 74.7 percent of the U.S. population.

Regarding Alabama's vital statistics, the state ranked 10th with respect to marriage and divorce rates in 1980 and 23rd and 20th respectively with regard to birth and death rates in 1979.

Alabama's personal health care expenditures per capita for 1978 totalled $633.00, compared to $745.00 for the U.S., placing Alabama 37th among the states. The number of physicians per 100,000 population in 1980 was 125 compared to 185 for the nation, ranking the state very low at 45th among the states. While both health care expenditures and the number of physicians were very low, the number of hospital beds per 100,000 population in 1980 was relatively high, placing the state 16th when compared to the fifty states.

Alabama's total housing units for 1980 equalled 1,467,374 of the 88,411,263 for the nation, ranking the state 22nd among the fifty states. Alabama's houses are primarily single units. The state ranks very low, 44th, with respect to the number of housing structures with five or more units. Only 9.1 percent of the structures, compared to 17.5 percent for the U.S., are composed of five or more units. The housing units are also relatively new in age in comparison to those of other states. In Alabama, 30.9 percent of the housing units were built between 1970 and 1980 whereas only 16.3 percent were built prior to 1940, ranking Alabama 20th and 38th respectively.

Alabama ranks very low (50th) with respect to public elementary and secondary school expenditures, both per capita and current expenditures per pupil. The expenditures per capita in 1981 totalled $279.00, compared to $434.00 for the U.S.; while the current expenditures per pupil in 1981 equalled $1,384.00, compared to $2,350.00 for the U.S. Public school teachers' salaries are also low. Alabama ranks 43rd among the states. The relatively low percent of Alabamians 25 years of age and older who graduated from high school in 1980 (56.5 percent compared to 66.5 percent for the U.S.) appears to be reflective of limited funding for public education both in terms of low educational expenditures and low teachers' salaries. While the state ranks very low, 42nd, in terms of high school graduates in 1980, its position with respect to undergraduate enrollment in institutions of higher education for 1979 was 22nd, placing the state midway among all other states. The relationship between the percent of high school graduates and the undergraduate enrollment in institutions of higher education would seem somewhat contradictory except for the fact that the undergraduate enrollment includes students who are citizens of states other than Alabama.

With respect to employment, 26.1 percent of Alabamians were employed in manufacturing in 1979, placing the state 13th among the states. While Alabama was positioned relatively high in terms of the percent employed in manufacturing, the state ranked relatively low (35th) with respect to the average weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing in 1981. Weekly earnings equalled $280, compared to $318 for the nation. The state ranked 22nd with respect to the civilian labor force in 1981. A total of 1,665,000 Alabamians were in the civilian labor force in 1981 compared to 108,670,000 for the U.S. Alabama ranked 2nd among the states with respect to the unemployment rate in 1981. The number of Alabamians unemployed in 1981 equalled 10.7 percent, compared to 7.6 percent for the nation.

Alabama's income and poverty status appears less than positive. The median household money income in 1979 for Alabama was $13,669 compared to $16,841 for the U.S. This places Alabama 47th among the fifty states. The state's per capita money income for 1979 was $5,894, compared to $7,298 for the U.S. Again, Alabama ranks very low (45th) among the states. The number of Alabamians below the poverty level in 1979 equalled 18.9 percent of the state's population, compared to 12.4 percent of the total U.S. population, placing the state 3rd among the fifty states. The number of children under 18 years old below the poverty level in 1979 totalled 23.6 percent of the population compared to 16.0 percent for the U.S., placing the state 2nd among the states.

State and local government expenditures appear to be reflective of the economic status of the individual citizens. While total state and local government expenditures in 1981 placed Alabama 22nd among the states, both expenditures per capita and tax revenues per capita in 1981 were very low. Among the states, Alabama ranked 42nd and 48th respectively. With respect to debt per capita in 1981, Alabama ranked low (40th).

The number of farms in Alabama in 1978 totalled 57,503 compared to 2,478,642 for the U.S., placing the state 20th among the states. Alabama placed 29th among the states with respect to the amount of land in farms in 1978, 11.5 million acres compared to 1,029.7 million acres for the U.S. Alabama ranked 30th in terms of acreage per farm in 1982, 216 acres compared to 433 acres for the U.S. Alabama also ranked in the middle among the states with respect to acreage value of farm land and buildings per acre for 1982 (25th) and gross farm income for 1981 (26th). The average value of farm land and buildings per acre for 1982 was $922.00 compared to $788.00 for the U.S., while gross farm income for 1982 was $2.5 billion compared to $161.2 billion for the nation.

In reviewing these statistics, we find that Alabama ranks among the top ten percent of all fifty states relative to unemployment; persons below the poverty level in 1979; and marriage and divorce rates. The state ranks between 20th and 30th in terms of total state and local government expenditures; gross farm income; land in farms; total population; percent elderly; total housing units; and birth and death rates. And finally, Alabama ranks between 40th and 50th among all other states with respect to the number of physicians per 100,000 population; public elementary and secondary school expenditures; public school teachers salaries; high school graduates; and median household income in 1979.

This paper was not intended to provide an understanding for the causes and effects associated with the economic indicators discussed. However, the figures may be quite useful for creating a platform to perform further analytical research. The ability to market the state's potential in terms of a higher quality of life as well as greater opportunities for business and industry expansion depends to a degree on the manner in which these statistics are analyzed and applied.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1983							1984					
	1982	1983	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
INDUSTRIAL															
Bituminous coal production[1] *(1,000 net tons)*	25,869	23,071	1,759	1,667	2,004	1,937	2,150	2,044	1,849	2,181	2,434	2,518	2,211	2,327	2,377
Natural gas production *(1,000,000 cu. ft.)*	133,892	126,576	10,301	10,189	10,541	9,028	10,409	10,453	9,407	10,962	11,264	10,750	11,386	11,920	9,984
Cotton consumption *(1,000 lbs.)*	320,808	360,820	32,494	24,507	33,557	31,394	30,597	29,370	28,336	28,600	31,542	29,964	27,510	30,176	.....
Crude oil and condensate production[2] *(1,000 barrels)*	20,011	18,708	1,525	1,596	1,592	1,435	1,522	1,569	1,499	1,624	1,578	1,590	1,533	1,673	1,583
Electric energy consumption, industrial purposes *(1,000,000 kwh)*	21,431	21,020	1,797	1,756	1,963	1,892	1,818	1,799	1,698	1,827	1,958	1,919	1,983	2,005	2,104
Pulp, paper, and paperboard production *(1,000 net tons)*	5,419	6,166	554	561	505	511	559	510	479	532	526	580	571	525	561
CONSTRUCTION															
Building contracts awarded, new and alterations combined[3] *($1,000)*	2,011,200	2,773,900	332,400	161,000	225,200	242,200	278,600	290,800	211,000	228,400	159,700	244,600	174,300	571,700	231,400
Residential	847,200	1,298,000	125,800	101,800	104,600	162,600	138,100	97,300	96,000	98,300	82,200	125,100	104,500	117,500	114,100
Nonresidential	660,000	1,019,500	117,300	44,600	75,300	45,400	108,000	162,000	82,800	112,300	36,300	66,600	47,500	92,500	71,300
Public works and utilities	504,000	456,700	89,300	14,600	45,300	34,400	32,700	31,400	32,200	17,700	41,300	52,900	22,300	361,300	46,400
Cement consumption *(1,000 net tons)*	928	1,086	116	102	116	101	108	92	67	68	87	108	100	112	117
FINANCE															
Savings in savings and loan associations[4] *($1,000,000)*	4,593	5,263	5,063	5,096	5,123	5,158	5,191	5,204	5,263	5,289	5,323	5,389	5,387	5,416	5,492
Tax collections *($1,000)*															
Total	2,112,332	2,288,165	189,144	173,150	191,429	219,553	186,326	221,579	154,139	205,929	202,747	264,652	234,338	246,438	198,192
Franchise	52,016	57,214	2,777	7,524	2,253	7,300	4,430	1,980	507	302	1,153	28,642	5,875	1,275	2,504
Gasoline (excl. aviation)	197,894	199,587	17,158	17,252	17,182	17,874	16,536	16,469	16,044	18,417	16,305	15,305	17,523	17,585	17,564
Income	765,160	815,838	80,633	36,785	81,341	81,667	38,160	83,559	53,073	49,125	95,328	130,393	82,889	130,465	81,367
Motor fuels	41,505	45,027	3,136	3,206	4,195	3,383	4,189	5,673	3,906	3,415	4,409	3,448	3,899	4,703	3,735
Oil/gas privilege	36,891	89,645	6,193	5,131	5,298	5,168	5,106	34,115	4,424	5,742	5,924	5,475	5,164	5,571	5,438
Oil/gas production	18,510	17,290	1,541	1,319	1,319	1,331	1,314	1,339	1,148	1,465	1,565	1,442	1,384	1,480	1,437
Sales	562,208	609,132	52,347	51,650	52,961	51,526	51,888	53,500	49,930	67,569	49,655	50,142	55,808	56,985	58,145
2.2% Gross receipts	44,104	46,185	48	10,738	61	3,548	10,134	63	6	13,504	152	9	13,448	210	1
TVA electric	35,999	31,290	2,831	2,831	2,831	2,911	2,867	.....	2,867	5,734	.....	2,867	2,867	2,867	2,867
Tobacco	70,885	88,915	6,536	6,035	5,426	5,906	6,030	5,454	6,081	5,485	4,985	5,418	5,734	6,072	6,211
Use	67,876	66,519	816	14,707	1,097	643	15,021	1,389	459	15,067	1,975	1,045	15,351	2,019	604
Utility	134,597	152,287	10,751	10,617	11,747	12,838	22,053	11,324	11,079	14,760	15,900	13,171	11,714	9,654	11,225
PRICES															
Consumer Price Index, U.S.[5] *(1967 = 100)*															
All items	288.8	298.4	298.1	299.3	300.3	301.8	302.6	303.1	303.5	305.2	306.6	307.3	308.8	309.7	310.7
Food	285.7	291.7	292.0	292.0	292.2	292.6	292.9	292.5	293.9	299.4	302.1	302.2	302.3	301.4	302.0
Housing	314.7	323.1	323.1	324.5	324.8	326.4	326.8	327.0	327.4	329.2	331.0	331.5	333.2	334.6	336.2
Fuel and utilities	350.8	370.3	373.6	375.5	375.1	376.4	374.4	371.3	370.6	376.0	383.0	380.1	380.9	385.5	390.0
Apparel and upkeep	191.8	196.5	195.6	195.0	197.3	200.4	200.7	200.7	199.3	196.4	196.2	198.8	199.2	198.9	197.4
Transportation	291.5	298.4	298.3	300.4	302.4	303.7	305.0	306.3	306.3	306.0	305.8	306.9	309.6	312.2	313.1
Medical care	328.7	357.3	355.4	357.7	360.0	361.2	362.9	364.9	366.2	369.5	373.2	374.5	375.7	376.8	378.0
Energy	416.0	419.3	427.3	430.1	429.8	429.3	425.1	419.9	418.0	416.7	420.2	418.1	421.3	426.1	428.5
Producer Price Index, U.S.[6] *(1967 = 100)*															
All commodities	299.3	303.1	302.4	303.2	304.7	305.3	306.0	305.5	306.1	308.0	308.9	311.1	330.4	311.7	311.4
Industrial commodities	312.3	315.7	315.3	316.5	317.3	317.1	318.5	318.3	318.4	319.1	320.6	321.9	322.5	323.3	323.9
Index of prices received by Alabama farmers *(1977 = 100)*	115.8	122.1	119.0	120.0	126.0	126.0	124.0	131.0	133.0	140.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	134.0	127.0
Purchasing power of the dollar, U.S. *(1967 = $1.000)* As measured by															
Consumer prices	346	335	335	334	333	331	330	330	329	328	326	325	324	323	322
Wholesale prices	334	330	331	330	328	328	327	327	327	325	324	321	303	321	321
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT[7]															
Civilian labor force *(1,000 workers)*	1,713.0	1,744.8	1,732.2	1,758.3	1,746.2	1,745.3	1,774.6	1,774.9	1,732.8	1,754.8	1,759.6	1,765.8	1,777.0	1,777.0	1,794.7
Unemployment	247.0	235.1	222.2	232.0	214.3	214.5	220.7	223.1	197.0	238.4	227.9	218.0	197.1	185.5	195.1
Unemployment rate	14.4	13.5	12.8	13.2	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.6	11.4	13.6	13.0	12.3	11.1	10.4	10.9
Employment	1,466.0	1,509.7	1,510.0	1,526.3	1,531.9	1,530.8	1,553.9	1,551.8	1,535.8	1,516.4	1,531.7	1,547.8	1,579.9	1,591.5	1,599.6
Nonagricultural	1,312.5	1,318.4	1,331.6	1,332.0	1,323.7	1,326.5	1,334.8	1,336.6	1,338.8	1,324.4	1,330.2	1,333.0	1,345.7	1,348.8	1,359.5
Manufacturing	337.8	338.2	340.9	337.4	344.8	345.5	346.0	346.3	345.6	344.6	345.2	346.6	351.1	351.8	353.7
Durable goods	159.1	157.6	157.6	157.9	160.9	161.1	161.9	162.6	162.2	161.9	162.9	165.4	167.0	167.5	168.4
Lumber and wood products	25.1	27.6	28.5	28.5	28.6	28.7	28.6	28.4	28.3	27.8	28.2	28.8	28.9	29.0	29.0
Stone, clay, glass products	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.1
Primary metals	29.6	24.8	24.7	24.3	24.9	24.5	24.6	24.6	24.8	25.2	25.2	26.2	26.2	26.4	26.2
Blast furn. and steel works	8.8	5.7	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.2	5.3	5.5	6.1	6.6	7.1	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9
Iron and steel foundries	11.4	10.5	10.3	10.4	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.5	9.9	10.0	9.6	10.0	10.1	10.2	10.0
Fabricated metals	22.8	21.7	21.4	21.7	21.9	22.0	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.0	22.2	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.4
Machinery (excl. electrical)	.....	14.8	15.0	14.9	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.1	16.4
Electrical, electronic equip.	.....	21.4	21.5	21.7	21.9	22.0	22.0	22.3	22.3	22.5	22.9	22.9	23.2	23.3	23.4
Transportation	22.6	21.5	19.9	20.2	21.8	22.0	22.6	22.7	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.9	23.3	23.4	23.9
Other durable goods	16.0	17.2	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.8	17.9	18.2	18.1	17.9	17.5	17.7	18.0	17.9	18.0
Nondurable goods	178.8	180.6	183.3	179.5	183.9	184.4	184.1	183.7	183.4	182.7	182.3	181.2	184.1	184.3	185.3
Food	26.5	26.9	27.2	27.3	27.4	27.4	27.5	27.2	27.1	26.9	26.5	26.5	26.7	26.8	27.3
Textile mill products	38.8	39.1	39.6	37.6	39.6	40.2	40.3	40.3	40.4	40.4	40.3	40.4	40.4	40.2	39.8
Apparel	53.0	54.3	55.6	53.8	55.4	56.0	55.5	55.4	55.1	54.4	54.7	53.6	55.7	56.2	56.2
Paper and allied products	21.0	21.4	21.8	21.9	22.1	21.5	21.4	21.4	21.3	21.3	21.1	20.8	21.2	21.0	21.5
Printing and publishing	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.8	10.7	10.7
Chemicals and allied products	13.1	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.9	12.0
Rubber products	13.8	14.6	14.7	14.8	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.7
Other nondurable goods	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Nonmanufacturing	974.7	980.1	990.7	994.6	978.9	981.0	988.8	990.3	993.2	979.8	985.0	986.4	994.6	997.0	1,005.8
Mining and quarrying	16.2	13.6	13.6	13.7	13.6	12.9	13.3	13.6	13.5	13.1	13.8	13.7	13.9	14.0	14.2
Bituminous coal mining	12.1	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.4	9.7	10.1	10.4	9.5	9.1	9.8	9.6	9.9	9.9	9.9
Contract construction	56.8	59.4	61.6	62.0	62.6	62.7	62.6	63.0	62.4	60.1	60.7	60.4	62.6	63.3	66.1
Trans., comm., and utilities	71.1	69.7	70.9	70.7	64.6	70.7	71.3	70.9	71.1	70.6	71.3	71.6	71.4	71.9	72.7
Trade	267.4	271.0	272.5	272.7	273.0	273.7	275.5	278.0	282.1	273.9	272.9	274.1	277.5	278.8	280.9
Wholesale	70.0	69.7	70.3	70.2	70.3	70.4	70.6	70.8	70.7	70.8	71.2	71.3	71.6	71.7	71.6
Retail	197.4	201.3	202.2	202.5	202.7	203.3	204.9	207.2	211.4	203.1	201.7	202.8	205.9	207.1	209.3
Finance, insurance, real estate	58.8	59.4	60.1	60.3	60.2	59.8	59.6	59.6	59.6	59.8	60.0	60.3	60.6	61.1	61.7
Service and miscellaneous	214.4	217.8	219.8	219.8	219.8	219.7	219.6	218.6	218.3	216.3	218.3	219.2	220.4	220.0	219.3
Government	290.1	289.2	292.2	295.4	285.1	281.5	286.9	286.6	286.2	286.0	288.0	287.1	288.2	287.9	290.9
Federal	65.1	64.6	65.4	65.5	65.4	64.9	64.3	64.1	64.0	63.9	63.7	63.6	63.9	64.2	64.6
State and local	224.9	224.6	226.8	229.9	219.7	216.6	222.6	222.5	222.2	222.1	224.3	223.5	224.3	223.7	226.3

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983							1984					
	1982	1983	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT															
Other employment activity															
State Employment Service *(number)*															
Job applications	176,752	207,309	21,778	20,987	19,505	17,884	14,485	14,784	11,998	17,938	16,014	16,084	14,672	17,512	18,528
Nonagricultural placements	66,900	91,100	10,753	15,126	10,484	7,499	7,117	6,071	5,114	5,741	5,509	6,477	7,082	7,314	9,582
Unemployment compensation															
Initial benefit claims *(number)*	632,290	428,181	25,293	49,017	29,803	24,506	27,873	28,728	35,738	75,004	29,677	28,150	24,214	25,009	23,457
Payments *($1,000)*	233,984	191,868	14,873	13,217	15,186	13,556	11,656	12,540	13,999	18,452	15,901	15,566	11,949	13,048	12,192
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)*															
Autauga	15,080	15,780	15,930	15,770	15,590	15,610	15,710	15,680	15,460	15,530	15,420	15,460	15,300	15,560	15,670
	15.0	14.1	13.5	12.6	11.5	11.8	11.6	11.7	10.8	12.7	11.3	10.5	9.7	8.9	8.8
Baldwin	33,390	33,830	34,400	34,910	34,040	33,640	33,970	33,950	33,760	34,310	34,670	34,600	34,300	33,850	34,510
	12.1	12.3	11.4	12.6	11.3	11.3	11.0	11.3	11.8	14.0	13.7	12.6	10.3	8.8	9.0
Barbour	11,510	11,980	12,160	12,320	12,130	12,040	12,090	11,800	11,520	11,610	11,660	11,580	11,920	12,030	12,040
	16.2	13.1	12.7	13.3	12.8	11.1	10.9	10.9	10.8	13.0	12.2	10.2	9.6	9.1	9.6
Bibb	5,670	5,940	6,250	6,180	5,620	5,820	5,770	5,770	5,690	6,040	5,790	5,990	5,920	5,950	6,000
	22.8	19.6	17.6	17.2	16.2	17.9	15.0	15.4	18.0	25.3	20.0	19.6	19.1	16.8	15.1
Blount	14,050	13,520	13,690	13,680	13,440	13,510	13,730	13,130	12,890	12,870	13,020	13,200	13,290	13,360	13,370
	19.9	18.1	18.7	19.1	16.0	15.2	14.2	14.7	14.0	17.1	16.8	21.0	13.6	11.6	11.7
Bullock	4,480	4,530	4,590	4,690	4,720	4,770	4,820	4,660	4,410	4,230	4,250	4,250	4,390	4,510	4,590
	18.3	17.2	17.7	20.1	18.4	15.0	14.3	14.9	15.2	16.1	14.1	13.3	11.6	11.0	14.5
Butler	9,960	9,900	9,820	10,020	9,900	9,910	10,250	9,940	9,720	9,900	9,770	9,810	9,830	9,900	9,960
	20.3	17.3	18.2	17.9	15.9	14.0	15.2	13.3	12.0	16.7	15.5	15.1	13.2	12.6	13.9
Calhoun	45,620	46,560	47,050	47,340	46,910	46,350	46,850	46,310	46,520	47,170	47,220	47,470	47,820	47,820	48,380
	15.1	13.1	13.7	13.2	12.0	10.9	11.5	10.8	11.3	12.9	12.2	11.7	10.0	9.5	9.9
Chambers	16,280	16,920	17,290	17,460	17,230	16,790	17,070	16,880	16,760	16,760	16,850	16,950	17,050	17,160	17,220
	11.3	9.8	10.1	11.2	9.7	7.8	8.7	8.3	7.8	8.8	9.3	8.8	8.9	9.9	10.1
Cherokee	11,390	11,400	11,580	11,120	10,910	11,690	11,770	11,430	10,860	11,030	11,110	11,120	11,680	11,640	11,040
	14.8	15.4	12.9	19.4	17.4	9.7	13.4	10.2	11.1	14.5	17.4	20.8	11.3	11.2	18.8
Chilton	13,450	15,420	15,420	15,600	15,556	15,580	15,820	15,640	15,360	15,490	15,540	15,650	15,710	15,880	16,060
	15.6	13.3	12.6	12.0	11.5	10.9	10.3	10.7	10.5	12.7	11.7	11.7	11.1	10.4	10.7
Choctaw	5,280	5,560	5,590	5,830	5,570	5,430	5,510	5,440	5,500	5,610	5,650	5,660	5,650	5,670	5,530
	11.3	15.2	16.1	19.0	14.7	12.9	12.6	11.4	12.8	15.2	16.1	15.9	13.8	14.7	13.8
Clarke	10,450	10,810	11,240	11,090	10,800	10,580	10,620	10,580	10,560	10,870	10,680	10,780	10,640	10,650	10,720
	15.9	16.2	18.1	17.0	14.5	13.4	13.2	13.6	13.8	15.9	14.9	13.8	12.7	12.7	12.8
Clay	7,400	7,520	7,370	7,720	7,470	7,590	7,690	7,670	7,510	7,650	7,670	7,840	7,950	7,930	7,890
	13.5	13.8	15.2	17.4	12.9	11.8	11.3	11.3	10.7	12.3	11.8	10.8	9.8	10.3	10.7
Cleburne	5,080	5,210	5,190	5,180	5,050	5,290	5,280	5,190	5,160	5,090	5,100	5,130	5,150	5,120	5,280
	14.5	12.5	13.3	11.0	9.6	10.0	9.6	9.7	9.7	11.2	10.9	10.8	8.7	8.4	9.9
Coffee	19,410	20,040	20,190	20,360	20,320	20,440	20,340	20,020	19,700	19,430	20,030	20,030	20,120	20,240	20,160
	11.8	10.8	10.1	10.7	9.8	8.8	8.5	8.9	9.6	10.2	10.5	9.8	8.1	8.2	8.2
Colbert	23,620	24,050	24,270	24,490	24,040	23,600	23,710	23,500	23,520	23,760	24,310	24,140	24,310	23,880	24,060
	19.0	18.5	17.8	18.6	17.4	16.4	15.8	15.3	15.5	19.0	20.1	18.3	17.8	16.0	16.2
Conecuh	6,820	7,010	7,060	7,090	7,040	7,100	7,060	6,970	7,120	7,050	7,010	7,130	7,260	7,370	7,360
	13.9	12.7	12.3	12.3	11.1	12.6	11.7	12.3	13.7	13.7	14.1	12.6	11.1	10.0	10.6
Coosa	5,630	5,570	5,460	5,610	5,486	5,590	5,610	5,600	5,520	5,510	5,520	5,460	5,610	5,580	5,500
	10.8	10.3	10.6	11.6	9.5	8.1	7.7	8.2	7.8	9.0	8.8	7.8	7.5	6.5	7.9
Covington	15,630	16,340	16,530	16,710	16,690	16,590	16,580	16,500	16,160	16,280	16,570	16,360	16,370	16,370	16,310
	13.5	12.3	10.7	14.9	12.3	10.9	10.3	11.1	11.3	12.8	13.4	11.6	10.1	9.0	9.2
Crenshaw	6,830	7,220	7,410	7,790	7,340	7,570	7,640	7,250	6,820	6,750	6,810	6,920	7,170	7,440	7,220
	13.8	12.1	11.4	24.3	10.8	9.9	8.6	8.3	8.6	12.5	11.9	12.7	10.3	10.6	10.0
Cullman	27,400	28,710	28,960	29,190	28,570	29,050	29,480	28,830	28,050	28,430	28,700	29,070	29,160	29,300	29,220
	17.2	14.7	14.1	14.4	12.5	11.9	11.1	10.9	10.7	14.2	14.6	12.9	10.6	9.6	10.1
Dale	12,410	12,980	13,040	13,210	12,950	12,760	13,110	12,890	12,630	12,760	12,780	12,980	12,980	13,080	13,040
	13.1	13.7	13.4	14.2	12.6	11.6	11.8	12.1	11.5	12.8	13.3	13.7	11.4	11.0	11.0
Dallas	23,870	23,640	24,310	24,420	23,830	23,440	23,540	23,370	22,910	23,360	23,400	23,260	23,480	23,220	23,700
	17.3	17.5	17.2	18.0	16.3	15.5	15.2	15.3	14.7	17.0	16.6	15.6	15.5	14.3	15.2
DeKalb	28,460	29,950	30,700	31,260	30,580	30,100	30,200	29,530	28,890	29,440	29,310	29,580	30,100	30,290	30,670
	13.4	13.8	13.4	14.7	12.3	12.1	13.0	12.3	11.6	14.5	12.7	12.0	10.8	10.1	10.6
Elmore	19,880	20,770	21,660	21,150	21,020	20,680	20,780	20,570	20,250	20,170	20,220	20,390	20,570	20,670	20,860
	13.3	12.2	13.6	12.3	11.7	10.4	10.1	9.5	8.4	9.6	9.1	8.8	8.0	7.7	7.8
Escambia	16,470	17,430	17,810	17,890	17,360	17,340	17,360	17,410	17,440	17,560	17,610	17,420	17,610	17,680	17,770
	13.2	12.6	12.8	13.7	12.4	11.3	11.3	12.1	12.6	14.3	13.5	11.8	11.3	11.3	10.8
Etowah	42,720	42,450	42,520	42,830	42,350	41,440	41,890	41,720	41,370	41,660	41,700	41,500	41,810	41,700	42,230
	20.5	17.5	16.6	17.0	15.3	14.0	14.0	14.2	13.5	15.8	15.3	14.3	13.4	11.7	11.6
Fayette	9,830	10,170	10,260	10,200	10,100	10,330	10,450	10,310	10,160	10,160	10,170	10,340	10,490	10,550	10,540
	11.4	11.7	10.5	11.7	10.9	10.7	9.6	9.4	9.7	10.5	9.7	9.9	8.9	8.1	8.7
Franklin	13,310	14,200	14,590	15,010	14,530	14,500	14,440	14,320	14,010	15,060	15,190	15,390	14,930	14,910	14,830
	18.4	18.2	16.2	24.4	15.9	15.9	15.5	16.6	16.6	25.7	23.0	22.1	18.3	17.2	15.9
Geneva	10,800	11,400	11,740	11,680	11,450	11,570	11,950	11,600	11,470	11,330	11,320	11,430	11,670	11,830	11,940
	11.4	10.5	9.8	10.9	9.9	8.5	8.3	8.3	9.4	10.2	9.4	8.9	8.4	7.7	7.5
Greene	4,560	4,610	4,630	4,610	4,510	4,560	4,590	4,480	4,420	4,610	4,700	4,640	4,780	4,730	4,680
	17.0	16.7	15.6	15.3	14.1	13.3	12.7	13.5	15.4	21.5	21.4	17.7	16.8	14.6	15.5
Hale	4,980	5,310	5,300	5,550	5,260	5,360	5,460	5,340	5,270	5,380	5,310	5,310	5,450	5,440	5,510
	20.7	16.6	15.1	19.3	13.5	13.0	12.8	14.8	18.2	22.6	19.6	17.9	16.8	15.0	16.3
Henry	7,010	7,260	7,330	7,360	7,260	7,480	7,670	7,410	7,140	7,020	7,100	7,050	7,390	7,540	7,350
	12.2	11.2	11.9	12.5	10.7	10.0	9.1	9.3	9.4	11.5	10.2	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.8
Houston	39,040	40,070	40,540	41,010	40,360	40,720	41,050	40,160	39,630	39,610	39,840	40,080	40,770	41,060	41,290
	10.0	10.8	11.0	12.4	10.5	10.0	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.4	9.4	8.9	8.6	8.7	8.7
Jackson	21,080	20,800	20,990	21,480	20,280	20,690	20,980	20,320	19,980	19,810	19,930	19,660	19,640	19,440	19,200
	20.4	22.0	21.9	23.6	17.6	18.8	19.5	19.0	20.7	22.0	21.8	19.3	16.4	14.5	15.7
Jefferson	306,120	310,270	313,520	315,270	310,460	308,350	307,640	305,340	303,270	306,020	305,750	308,780	310,420	309,110	313,030
	13.8	12.8	12.7	12.5	11.8	11.6	10.8	10.7	10.1	11.6	10.7	10.9	9.9	9.2	9.4
Lamar	8,330	8,820	8,910	8,880	8,570	8,780	8,960	8,900	8,730	8,830	8,940	8,980	9,100	9,060	9,270
	13.5	9.8	11.0	9.9	8.7	8.2	7.9	8.4	7.3	8.9	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.2	8.6
Lauderdale	34,260	34,810	35,480	35,810	34,840	34,370	34,610	34,220	34,350	34,800	35,380	35,280	34,890	34,530	34,910
	17.5	16.9	17.0	17.7	15.8	15.2	14.8	14.0	14.5	18.3	18.8	17.4	15.4	14.2	14.7
Lawrence	14,310	14,490	14,760	14,840	14,140	13,910	13,990	13,680	13,380	13,650	13,720	13,660	13,870	13,880	13,730
	18.9	18.7	18.2	18.1	16.8	16.2	15.7	16.0	16.9	19.1	18.9	16.8	16.3	15.5	14.4
Lee	34,330	36,140	37,020	36,280	36,600	36,370	37,120	36,770	35,890	36,440	36,770	36,650	37,140	37,420	37,650
	9.4	8.4	9.0	8.7	8.0	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.4	6.6	6.2	7.8
Limestone	22,840	23,940	23,910	23,890	24,030	24,200	24,180	24,040	23,780	24,290	24,430	24,300	24,780	24,770	24,940
	13.6	11.0	9.7	9.2	8.9	9.0	8.6	9.0	8.5	11.2	11.1	9.7	9.6	8.5	8.5
Lowndes	4,960	5,320	5,290	5,370	5,400	5,490	5,560	5,420	5,290	5,260	5,270	5,180	5,390	5,360	5,300
	19.2	17.6	18.3	18.7	16.1	16.0	16.0	14.0	14.3	19.3	18.3	17.7	19.7	17.7	18.6
Macon	7,820	8,000	8,160	8,120	8,160	8,030	8,090	7,800	7,760	7,810	7,810	7,780	7,930	8,000	8,360
	14.9	13.5	16.4	15.2	14.6	11.4	11.2	11.1	11.4	12.7	11.9	10.6	10.5	9.6	13.9
Madison	94,570	100,410	102,320	101,810	102,590	102,490	103,030	102,090	100,970	102,220	102,160	104,170	104,170	104,860	105,950
	10.7	9.2	9.6	8.8	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.2	7.7	9.7	9.0	9.8	7.9	7.5	7.7
Marengo	9,690	9,920	9,950	10,210	9,840	9,790	9,860	9,790	9,640	9,860	9,800	9,970	9,960	9,960	10,260
	15.4	15.4	16.7	17.1	13.4	12.2	11.7	12.1	12.9	15.0	14.2	15.0	12.7	11.7	12.7
Marion	13,300	13,760	14,010	14,320	13,810	13,490	13,500	13,580	13,250	13,550	13,490	13,490	13,420	13,320	13,390
	18.3	19.4	20.3	20.5	17.4	16.2	16.1	17.7	15.6	18.6	17.6	16.4	14.2	12.3	11.6
Marshall	33,020	34,920	35,290	37,380	35,030	35,200	35,260	35,020	34,960	35,930	36,000	35,470	35,910	35,770	36,400
	14.8	13.0	12.7	17.2	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.9	11.2	14.4	14.0	11.8	11.0	9.6	10.5
Mobile	158,750	163,820	169,130	169,240	167,380	163,240	163,950	161,260	158,890	163,040	163,710	164,260	164,740	164,340	167,090
	14.0	15.9	16.3	16.2	16.2	15.1	14.3	13.3	12.9	15.9	15.1	14.5	13.3	12.8	12.7

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983							1984					
	1982	1983	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT.															
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)* —continued															
Monroe	10,360	10,770	10,890	10,920	10,860	10,820	10,950	10,980	10,900	10,940	10,950	10,900	11,010	10,840	11,060
	14.2	12.6	12.3	12.2	11.4	10.9	11.7	12.6	12.4	15.6	14.9	13.4	12.6	10.1	12.5
Montgomery	88,090	92,650	94,690	94,460	93,700	93,230	94,230	93,970	92,810	92,730	93,380	93,460	94,480	94,540	96,350
	11.1	10.6	11.1	10.8	10.0	9.8	10.0	10.0	9.3	10.7	10.6	9.6	9.0	8.4	9.4
Morgan	37,450	37,990	38,770	38,810	38,190	37,970	37,960	37,520	37,080	37,630	37,490	37,810	38,060	38,070	38,590
	16.1	14.5	14.3	14.4	13.6	13.0	12.8	12.4	11.9	14.5	13.6	13.7	12.4	11.6	12.0
Perry	5,690	5,860	6,050	6,010	5,940	5,910	5,950	5,870	5,780	5,840	5,690	5,660	5,730	5,780	5,910
	15.7	14.8	14.5	14.2	13.6	11.6	11.2	15.7	19.2	22.4	15.1	12.1	10.8	10.0	10.4
Pickens	7,550	7,630	7,720	7,790	7,620	7,590	7,650	7,510	7,600	7,500	7,540	7,450	7,590	7,730	7,790
	19.7	17.7	20.3	17.9	15.7	14.4	14.2	13.3	16.3	17.9	17.3	15.8	15.2	16.4	15.2
Pike	13,260	13,770	13,780	13,990	13,660	13,710	14,370	13,890	12,960	13,360	13,420	13,590	13,680	13,870	13,890
	13.4	13.7	14.0	14.8	13.3	11.9	10.6	10.8	11.9	12.0	11.8	12.0	9.6	8.9	9.9
Randolph	9,710	9,170	9,030	9,710	9,040	8,880	9,310	9,050	8,950	8,890	8,830	8,780	8,820	8,880	8,650
	21.7	17.8	17.3	24.5	16.4	12.7	12.1	12.7	13.8	18.0	16.2	15.9	13.1	12.9	14.0
Russell	17,990	18,320	18,490	18,590	18,510	18,080	18,230	18,190	18,210	19,480	18,890	18,560	18,790	18,930	20,370
	16.7	13.7	13.1	12.8	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.2	11.5	17.9	14.3	12.1	11.8	11.9	17.0
St. Clair	18,980	19,350	19,320	19,240	19,000	19,090	19,070	19,100	19,280	19,310	19,470	19,030	19,280	19,110	19,330
	14.7	14.2	13.1	12.0	11.6	12.4	11.7	12.4	13.2	14.0	13.9	11.3	10.9	9.8	9.9
Shelby	29,940	30,510	30,670	30,930	30,580	30,380	30,570	30,230	30,220	30,890	30,650	30,300	30,740	30,910	31,490
	13.0	12.4	11.9	11.9	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.9	10.9	13.6	12.1	10.3	10.1	10.3	11.0
Sumter	6,810	6,990	7,170	7,250	7,120	6,900	7,100	7,110	6,850	7,060	7,040	7,170	7,220	7,180	7,360
	17.7	14.3	16.2	16.7	13.7	10.6	11.1	11.8	9.9	12.2	11.1	12.0	13.3	10.1	13.2
Talladega	30,840	32,030	32,270	32,590	32,380	32,240	32,440	31,670	31,300	31,730	31,670	31,920	32,210	31,900	32,680
	19.2	17.1	17.6	17.4	16.2	14.8	14.2	13.5	13.0	15.0	14.6	14.7	14.5	13.5	15.1
Tallapoosa	16,900	16,580	16,910	17,390	16,780	16,510	16,660	16,560	16,620	16,850	16,970	17,080	17,220	17,160	17,620
	13.5	12.2	12.5	15.7	12.0	9.8	10.3	9.6	9.9	10.6	10.2	9.8	8.7	9.1	9.3
Tuscaloosa	55,530	56,520	56,520	56,610	56,210	55,900	56,800	56,540	56,400	56,910	57,500	58,020	58,090	58,160	57,710
	12.6	12.5	13.1	12.8	12.1	10.9	10.9	10.5	10.3	11.8	11.2	11.1	9.7	10.3	10.1
Walker	31,760	32,980	33,080	33,410	32,860	32,630	33,300	32,910	33,020	33,440	33,350	33,330	32,570	32,520	32,570
	15.0	16.1	15.4	15.6	14.8	14.6	15.7	15.2	15.6	17.3	16.3	15.5	12.1	11.7	10.9
Washington	6,200	6,380	6,630	6,740	6,420	6,530	6,500	6,340	6,210	6,330	6,400	6,550	6,510	6,770	6,610
	16.9	20.0	21.4	22.6	18.6	17.5	16.4	15.8	15.7	17.8	18.1	18.0	16.1	18.5	17.2
Wilcox	6,380	5,860	5,720	5,590	5,500	5,590	5,680	5,490	5,320	5,340	5,380	5,230	5,340	5,410	5,420
	18.7	20.3	20.8	19.5	18.4	18.3	18.1	17.6	17.1	18.8	18.0	17.2	16.1	16.0	16.6
Winston	8,480	9,150	9,360	9,510	9,280	9,170	9,290	9,170	8,960	9,570	9,850	9,450	9,450	9,500	9,400
	22.5	18.6	16.9	17.3	16.3	14.8	15.3	16.2	16.5	23.4	25.8	20.0	17.9	18.4	16.2
TRADE															
Foreign, through Port of Mobile															
Imports															
Value *($1,000)*	551,093	643,182	49,281	33,162	70,692	22,392	85,365	50,213	46,894	51,145	40,064	53,684	72,261	83,186	44,217
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	8,142	6,288	353	343	819	430	826	757	423	583	508	232	718	905	769
Exports															
Value *($1,000)*	1,222,158	788,611	71,690	51,007	33,212	51,981	64,610	81,993	64,282	89,760	39,449	46,631	32,516	60,111	47,486
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	14,577	9,496	1,150	610	344	524	547	546	868	1,731	1,283	1,667	2,096	1,930	1,915
Shipments by water, Port of Mobile[a] *(1,000 tons)*	39,655	34,916	3,268	2,560	3,013	2,812	2,948	3,118	2,653	3,017	2,522	3,015	3,110	3,266	3,413
Domestic															
Electric energy consumption, non-industrial purposes *(1,000,000 kwh)*	22,680	23,017	1,678	2,149	2,571	2,547	1,798	1,588	1,884	2,494	2,093	1,793	1,604	1,607	1,968
Gasoline sales[a] *(1,000 gallons)*	1,840,396	1,861,406	159,700	159,303	165,359	153,217	153,174	148,354	168,460	150,958	141,859	162,105	162,606	162,470	.....
New passenger car registrations[11] *(number)*	100,717	122,393	10,660	11,039	10,012	11,288	10,378	10,295	11,751	10,453	11,116	11,051	11,616	13,890	12,648
Taxable retail sales by kind of business: state totals[11] *($1,000,000)*															
Food	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	289	281	305	305	283	.....
General stores with food and gas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	12	14	14	15	.....
General merchandise	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	157	144	176	191	191	.....
Apparel	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	34	46	52	45	.....
Furniture, furnishings, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41	40	44	43	43	.....
Automotive	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	211	234	275	260	277	.....
Gasoline service stations	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	22	25	25	24	.....
Lumber and building materials	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55	61	73	77	81	.....
Hardware and farm implements	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	29	37	39	40	.....
Eating places	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	100	112	102	102	.....
Drug stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	21	21	21	24	.....
All other retail	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	153	156	173	174	172	.....
Total sales by retail concerns	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,115	1,134	1,302	1,303	1,298	.....
Nonretail and unclassified concerns	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	190	188	214	216	228	.....
Total all sales at retail	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,305	1,321	1,516	1,519	1,525	.....
Taxable retail sales, Metropolitan Statistical Areas and counties[11] *($1,000)*															
MSAs															
Anniston	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36,218	36,363	42,530	42,190	42,848	.....
Birmingham	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	347,168	363,465	421,798	415,612	424,925	.....
Dothan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42,222	43,478	50,260	50,977	51,172	.....
Florence	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,540	32,351	37,577	38,202	38,641	.....
Gadsden	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	74,333	80,425	85,601	85,114	87,309	.....
Huntsville	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	149,189	150,466	173,136	177,013	161,515	.....
Mobile	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	99,247	102,776	116,568	116,875	121,764	.....
Montgomery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47,055	45,684	51,843	50,466	51,612	.....
Tuscaloosa	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43,786	47,672	53,475	52,778	55,168	.....
Counties															
Autauga	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,749	6,975	7,962	8,222	8,016	.....
Baldwin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22,298	24,488	27,996	28,495	29,301	.....
Barbour	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,143	4,783	5,970	5,863	6,028	.....
Bibb	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,797	2,970	3,280	3,281	3,621	.....
Blount	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,051	6,128	6,962	7,119	7,738	.....
Bullock	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,107	2,142	2,143	2,101	1,918	.....
Butler	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,521	4,826	5,441	5,792	5,545	.....
Calhoun	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36,218	36,363	42,530	42,190	42,848	.....
Chambers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,075	8,122	9,209	10,806	9,462	.....
Cherokee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,446	3,634	3,909	4,127	4,330	.....
Chilton	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,947	7,004	8,126	8,241	8,328	.....
Choctaw	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,995	2,749	3,443	3,030	2,827	.....
Clarke	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,232	7,229	8,266	8,587	7,744	.....
Clay	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,884	1,877	2,294	2,215	2,227	.....
Cleburne	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,682	1,611	1,935	1,948	1,979	.....
Coffee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,467	14,291	16,941	16,196	16,199	.....

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983							1984					
	1982	1983	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
TRADE—CONTINUED															
Retail sales, MSAs and counties—continued															
Counties—continued															
Colbert	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,564	18,126	20,904	21,036	21,558	.....
Conecuh	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,505	2,723	3,438	3,119	2,867	.....
Coosa	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	619	523	723	720	658	.....
Covington	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,580	10,523	12,081	11,494	11,989	.....
Crenshaw	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,369	2,319	2,453	2,518	2,476	.....
Cullman	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,925	16,815	19,753	19,955	20,121	.....
Dale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,035	7,619	8,762	8,461	8,612	.....
Dallas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,217	14,083	16,672	16,297	16,689	.....
DeKalb	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,348	13,021	13,811	14,884	15,406	.....
Elmore	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,196	7,516	8,410	8,162	8,792	.....
Escambia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,859	10,739	12,077	12,411	11,355	.....
Etowah	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,540	32,351	37,577	38,202	38,641	.....
Fayette	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,728	4,969	5,815	5,397	5,639	.....
Franklin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,713	7,347	8,498	8,388	8,389	.....
Geneva	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,841	11,554	11,973	11,993	12,263	.....
Greene	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,267	1,281	1,564	1,485	1,537	.....
Hale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,239	2,394	2,763	2,565	2,776	.....
Henry	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,323	2,464	3,029	3,008	2,888	.....
Houston	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36,751	40,053	44,713	44,317	46,556	.....
Jackson	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,259	9,452	10,924	10,887	11,127	.....
Jefferson	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	294,567	309,817	360,749	353,694	358,803	.....
Lamar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,691	2,901	3,797	3,122	3,376	.....
Lauderdale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24,658	25,350	29,356	29,941	29,614	.....
Lawrence	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,647	3,475	4,130	4,193	4,555	.....
Lee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24,946	24,850	28,179	28,058	27,826	.....
Limestone	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,168	11,418	13,548	13,243	13,969	.....
Lowndes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,271	1,207	1,325	1,362	1,521	.....
Macon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,847	3,179	3,474	3,642	3,703	.....
Madison	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	74,333	80,425	85,601	85,114	87,309	.....
Marengo	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,543	5,108	5,662	5,433	5,278	.....
Marion	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,858	7,0[illegible]	8,208	7,463	7,845	.....
Marshall	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22,754	23,95[illegible]	27,928	28,021	30,222	.....
Mobile	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126,891	125,978	145,140	148,518	132,214	.....
Monroe	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,164	6,518	8,373	7,645	7,436	.....
Montgomery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85,302	88,285	100,196	100,491	104,956	.....
Morgan	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30,390	31,374	36,623	37,555	38,256	.....
Perry	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,631	1,870	2,144	2,027	2,097	.....
Pickens	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,963	2,925	3,473	3,612	3,542	.....
Pike	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,438	6,656	7,653	7,288	7,214	.....
Randolph	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,135	4,639	4,898	4,435	4,726	.....
Russell	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,165	8,968	9,973	9,856	10,005	.....
St. Clair	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,314	9,206	10,376	10,223	10,689	.....
Shelby	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,846	17,885	20,994	20,633	22,440	.....
Sumter	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,319	2,163	2,865	2,442	2,359	.....
Talladega	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,274	17,156	19,144	20,215	22,535	.....
Tallapoosa	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,581	9,637	10,573	11,353	11,502	.....
Tuscaloosa	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47,055	45,684	51,843	50,466	51,612	.....
Walker	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,390	20,429	22,717	23,943	25,255	.....
Washington	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,575	1,619	1,709	1,815	1,860	.....
Wilcox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,935	2,092	2,414	2,236	2,944	.....
Winston	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,972	5,188	6,001	6,139	6,128	.....
Statewide[1]	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84,042	63,264	74,478	81,664	75,158	.....
BUILDING PERMITS[2]															
Alabama															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	712,696	1,079,085	72,677	93,959	120,559	96,165	86,676	162,881	76,349	65,449	75,497	99,328	193,079	97,366	115,116
Residential	237,082	449,881	32,005	39,580	47,066	34,835	43,819	42,063	27,533	24,927	38,376	39,447	46,811	38,102	43,568
Nonresidential	300,343	366,127	20,565	26,714	35,834	29,816	19,695	95,659	33,868	22,711	21,524	32,351	130,709	42,724	53,582
In selected cities															
Anniston															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	5,965	8,848	905	826	895	794	818	718	693	595	644	790	788	915	842
Residential	2,700	3,593	346	306	309	263	268	261	231	247	255	317	317	408	324
Nonresidential	442	932	112	92	124	106	109	101	81	75	93	126	113	117	139
Birmingham															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	109,048	213,343	8,012	7,729	14,059	30,767	9,844	83,104	6,605	5,689	4,413	8,945	7,619	5,562	8,258
Residential	13,918	31,921	1,221	1,378	1,317	2,529	4,275	904	885	1,100	1,574	2,100	2,551	814	1,299
Nonresidential	61,839	108,370	1,911	1,855	7,416	12,498	767	70,397	526	985	530	1,071	90	768	2,963
Decatur															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	8,551	14,095	1,235	1,167	1,367	1,424	1,278	1,004	789	912	1,111	1,075	1,106	1,520	1,342
Residential	2,937	7,340	770	741	918	995	862	663	267	673	845	739	739	1,096	925
Nonresidential	3,812	2,156	177	150	155	156	140	116	32	73	81	115	139	172	171
Dothan															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	28,821	18,943	1,073	1,388	1,340	700	3,402	2,191	2,952	1,075	1,084	1,568	1,353	1,326	1,514
Residential	5,626	7,760	475	350	366	316	2,412	805	351	444	631	685	695	448	759
Nonresidential	9,720	6,339	176	468	319	40	367	1,127	2,146	457	100	452	518	238	257
Gadsden				[illegible]											
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	10,429	13,596	529	4,695	354	549	550	1,389	1,189	656	530	214	565	1,351	865
Residential	1,517	2,006	194	170	282	224	329	75	61	110	57	92	347	976	219
Nonresidential	3,271	3,912	271	161	2	271	201	1,283	1,104	24	452	102	163	122	493
Huntsville															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	58,302	122,759	10,765	12,423	17,391	8,823	20,834	9,742	6,919	6,115	16,817	12,836	8,111	13,997	13,853
Residential	18,311	51,350	3,263	9,556	7,145	2,171	10,578	1,596	1,939	2,203	7,732	4,874	4,843	3,753	6,032
Nonresidential	14,238	45,128	5,693	669	6,403	5,166	3,320	5,238	3,809	2,270	5,358	7,169	2,413	8,366	5,970
Mobile															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	83,675	109,508	3,923	14,352	13,411	5,161	6,093	8,760	10,475	3,718	5,366	17,080	116,254	6,250	36,928
Residential	19,544	38,261	1,334	1,132	1,810	1,127	990	1,586	7,313	984	1,470	1,424	2,639	2,009	6,935
Nonresidential	43,701	49,663	664	11,007	10,337	1,465	2,188	5,173	2,058	1,419	2,488	4,160	112,221	3,331	28,665

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983							1984					
	1982	1983	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
BUILDING ACTIVITY —CONTINUED															
Montgomery															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	52,352	76,984	6,777	6,275	6,829	6,315	6,326	5,764	5,127	14,164	5,100	6,477	6,330	6,994	7,007
Residential	15,363	32,619	2,568	2,473	2,354	2,081	2,108	2,278	1,874	2,436	2,131	2,462	2,509	2,493	2,528
Nonresidential	22,178	28,264	2,542	2,205	2,762	2,652	2,596	2,170	1,856	9,934	1,882	2,727	2,496	3,043	3,059
Quad-Cities[11]															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	18,563	12,978	1,244	1,612	1,361	1,250	852	1,360	699	2,642	1,410	4,666	2,443	4,910	1,260
Residential	7,481	6,391	640	473	513	623	428	874	166	480	754	1,298	700	792	323
Nonresidential	5,722	3,506	261	737	705	380	337	123	100	207	585	3,031	1,079	3,887	614
Selma															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	2,757	4,197	115	336	103	901	67	98	356	1,826	213	219	1,019	356	158
Residential	987	357	30	.....	20	.....	.....	65	20	.....	.....	24	87	82	117
Nonresidential	1,739	798	10	275	20	18	30	1	.....	3	133	36	717	35	.....
Tuscaloosa															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Reported value	21,418	30,159	3,600	2,862	3,340	3,777	1,814	1,809	613	1,505	2,647	3,328	1,804	4,323	4,183
Residential	6,592	14,849	1,205	2,338	1,194	1,378	396	717	407	1,032	1,163	2,097	988	2,153	1,284
Nonresidential	8,408	6,227	569	187	1,221	711	527	599	3	132	929	573	277	1,529	1,901

NOTE: Throughout this table, details do not necessarily add to totals due to rounding. [1]Estimated total for calendar month based on adjustment of weekly data.
[2]Individual months may not add to annual totals due to late revisions in annual data.
[3]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of F. W. Dodge Div., McGraw-Hill Information Co.
[4]End-of-month balance.
[5]Beginning January 1978, the Consumer Price Index consists of "All Urban Consumers." Prior to that date, it included only "Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers." Historical data will not be available due to the change in coverage. No "Energy" data are available prior to 1978, and "Housing" data prior to January 1978 are not comparable to the new "Housing" series due to a change in definition.
[6]These data were previously presented as the "Wholesale Price Index." The new title more accurately reflects the coverage of the data.
[7]Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year.
[8]Includes both inbound and outbound shipments by water moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations.
[9]Excludes sales to federal government.
[10]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R. L. Polk and Company.
[11]Retail sales data represent sales at retail **which are subject to sales tax** as reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue under the definition of the Alabama Sales Tax Law. Total sales figures include taxable sales at retail by wholesalers and other nonretail firms as well as retail concerns. Sales at retail thus defined should not be confused with all sales (including nonretail sales) by retail concerns as reported in the *Census of Retail Trade*. **Monthly sales figures are preliminary and subject to revision on a continuing basis. Sales figure for the two latest months are normally low because they do not yet include data from late reporters. Retail sales historical data prior to 1984 are not available for the new series. The "Statewide" category in the "County" section provides sales figures which are not attributable to individual counties; it does not represent a state total.**
[12]Represents permits issued by selected permit-issuing places. Private construction only. May be partially estimated by the Bureau of the Census. "Reported value" includes additions and alterations and is not a sum of residential and nonresidential.
[13]Quad-Cities and consists of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia.

Revision to Retail Trade Series Introduced

This issue introduces a major revision to the retail trade series. The data series as it now exists reports only those sales at retail on which sales taxes were paid. Previously the series contained sales at retail which were exempt from taxation as well. The impact of this change is such that the series has been retitled to reflect its new, taxed-only status.

This revision comes as a result of a change in the sales tax reporting form. An abbreviated reporting form was introduced by the Alabama Revenue Department in mid-1983. The Revenue Department provides the input data from which the retail trade series is compiled.

Comparable data for periods prior to January 1984 are not available. For that reason, no annual data for 1982 and 1983 nor monthly data for 1983 appear in the tables.

Tax-exempt sales include sales in interstate commerce, sales of gasoline and lubricating oils, sales to government entities, sales of prescription drugs, and credits for vehicles and farm machinery taken as partial payment on sales.

CBER has published retail trade data in some form since 1940. Through the years the series has seen many changes, and others will come. We at CBER will strive to minimize the effects of future changes while providing the most accurate retail trade information possible.

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The Economy in Perspective

Focus on Houston County

Houston County is in the southeast portion of Alabama. It is bordered by both Florida and Georgia, and people from both these states come into Houston County to conduct some of their business. The largest city in the county is Dothan. With a 1980 Census population of 48,750, Dothan had 65 percent of the county's total population. Houston County increased its population by 32 percent between 1970 and 1980, and an additional 10,800 people have moved to Houston County since 1980. Seventy-eight percent of Houston County's people are white and 22 percent are nonwhite. Most of the nonwhites are black, although a few American Indians, Asians, and other races live there as well.

A perennial problem with Alabama's image is that its citizens are not well educated. In 1980 the Census revealed that 25 percent of Alabamians 25 years of age or older had only an eighth grade education or less. Houston County mirrored the state average with 25 percent of its adults over 25 not having attended high school. Houston County, however, fared better than the state in percent of adults 25 and over who have attended or finished college. Twenty-four percent of all Alabamians fit this category; 25.6 percent of Houston Countians do. The remaining 49.5 percent of Houston County's over-25 adults have attended or finished high school.

Generally speaking, persons under age 18 are the school-age population, persons 18 through 64 are the working-age population, and persons 65 and older are the retirement-age population. Houston County has 31.0 percent of its people under 18 (a little higher than the state average), 58.7 percent who are between 18 and 64 (about the same as the rest of the state), and 10.3 percent who are 65 or older (a little lower than the state average).

For the last six years Houston County's unemployment rate has increased steadily. Of course, the recession hit all of Alabama with a heavy hammerblow, and Houston County is fortunate that its unemployment rate has not been as high as the state average, even though Houston County's and the state's have been far above the national average. In 1983 the national unemployment rate was 9.6 percent, Alabama's was 13.7, and Houston County's was 10.8.

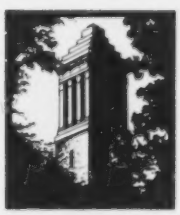
Total employment equals proprietors employment plus wage and salary employment. About 11.5 percent of Houston County's employment is made up of proprietors, including farm proprietors, and the remainder is wage and salary employment. Many people think of Houston County as an agricultural area, but the biggest categories of wage and salary employment in Houston County are manufacturing, retail trade, services, and state and local government. Of proprietors, 35 percent are farm proprietors and 65 percent are nonfarm proprietors.

Manufacturers employ 23 percent of Houston County people earning wages or salaries. The largest manufacturing companies there are Sony Magnetic Products of America, making electronic components; Ansell, Inc., making fabricated rubber products; Hedstrom Co., making tricycles, gym sets, and strollers; Warners Co., making women's knit underwear; Dothan Manufacturing Inc., making men's pajamas and undershorts; WexTex of Ashford, Inc., making men's and boys' sleepwear; Twitchell Corp., making fabrics for automobiles as well as other kinds of fabrics; and Sunnyland Foods of Alabama, making sausage as well as other pork and beef processing.

Retail trade businesses account for nearly 15½ percent of all wage and salary employees in Houston County, with service establishments running a close second. State and local government provides jobs for a little more than 12 percent of wage and salary employees. Although Houston County certainly has more agricultural employees than many Alabama counties, it is interesting that farm employees are only 1.3 percent of wage and salary employees in Houston County and only 35 percent of all proprietors. As mentioned earlier, proprietors represent only 11½ percent of all employment. The farm proprietors and employees together represent 12½ percent of total employment in Houston County. This percentage is above the state average and is projected to remain higher than the state average for at least a decade.

The growth rates for total personal income, personal income by place of work, and total wage and salary income in Houston County's region through 1991 are projected to be below the state average. Income from manufacturing was severely affected during the recession but is expected to recover over the next few years, although at perhaps a slower rate than the national recovery.

--Annette Jones Watters



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